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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

State Department review completed

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17 February 1971

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Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

17 February 1971

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

PANAMA: US-Panamanian relations are threatened.
(Page 7)

25X1

SOUTH KOREA: Pak illness (Page 9)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

Next 7 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

PANAMA: [The arrest on 6 February of a minor Panamanian official, is now threatening US-Panamanian relations.

[The government has charged that the official was lured into the Canal Zone by US narcotic agents and has termed the action intolerable. It has already begun to fan the flames of Panamanian nationalism and anti-Americanism. University students, anxious to resume organizational activity banned since the 1968 coup, are apparently hoping to gain government approval by protesting the US action.]

[Foreign Minister Tack indicated to the US ambassador on 15 February that it would be very difficult for Panama to retreat from its public position that the arrested man be returned. He threatened also that unless the US backed down, US citizens or soldiers caught with drugs would no longer be turned over to Zone authorities but would be jailed in the Republic.]

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25X1

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25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

Next 2 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2003/08/21 : CIA-RDP79T00975A018300030002-4

25X1

SOUTH KOREA: Illness has forced President Pak Chong-hui to sharply curtail his activities. Prime Minister Paek Tu-chin confirmed recently to the US ambassador that the cabinet ministers are not seeing the president because of doctors' fears that it would overtire him. Pak, who in the past has been reluctant to delegate responsibility, has shown signs of tension and fatigue recently, and [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Unless his condition improves, news of his illness is likely to leak and could have an effect on the presidential elections this spring. [REDACTED]

25X1

17 Feb 71

Central Intelligence Bulletin

9

25X1

25X1

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25X1

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